



IDAHO POTATOES

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IDAHO: Potato growers in the Gem State are expected to harvest 413,000 acres in 2000, 20,000 acres more than the acres harvested in 1999. Planted acres, of 415,000, are up 5.0 percent from a year ago. In the 10 Southwest counties, planted and harvested acres are estimated at 28,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from 1999. Acres for harvest in the State's other counties are expected to total 385,000 acres from 387,000 planted acres. This represents a 4.9 percent increase from last year's 367,000 acres harvested from 369,000 planted acres.

Planting of Idaho's 2000 potato crop was completed well ahead of schedule under excellent planting conditions. By late May planting was virtually complete. Recent warming conditions have aided development and by July 1 the crop was making good progress. Blight and other diseases continue to be a concern and the crop is being closely monitored with preventative actions being taken.

United States: Potato farmers across the United States have planted an estimated 1.39 million acres of potatoes in all four seasons this year, up 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest, forecast at 1.36 million acres, is up 2 percent from a year ago. In earlier forecasts, winter production jumped 16 percent over a year ago, while spring potatoes fell 11 percent. The summer forecast places production down 1 percent from last season in comparable States. Winter and spring plantings were down 5 percent from last year and summer acreage was off 3 percent in comparable States. The estimate of fall planted acreage is up 1 percent from last year in comparable States.

Fall Potatoes: Area planted to fall potatoes this year is estimated at 1.22 million acres, up 1 percent on a comparable basis. Harvest is expected from 1.20 million acres, a gain of 3 percent from a year ago. Comparability is achieved by adding Nebraska's summer acreage to their fall total last year and subtracting out Wyoming.

Eastern States have planted an estimated 102,900 acres this year. Maine's planted acreage is estimated at 64,000 acres, down 2 percent from last year. Massachusetts' acreage was down 3

percent and Rhode Island's acreage fell 17 percent. New York's planted acreage was down 15 percent. A cool, wet spring in most of New England and New York delayed planting and got the crop off to a slow start. Pennsylvania's potato acreage was down 7 percent from a year ago. The crop is progressing well throughout the State.

Central States planted an estimated 362,900 acres of fall potatoes this year, down 1 percent from last year. Acreage in South Dakota jumped 29 percent. Michigan and North Dakota were up 2 percent each while Wisconsin held at last year's planted level. Planted acreage was down 6 percent in Minnesota and Nebraska. Ohio dropped 12 percent and Indiana fell 19 percent. The eastern Corn Belt started off cool and wet for potatoes this year with Ohio's crop progress about four days behind last year. Recent rains caused some flooding in Indiana. Michigan's progress was slow and harvest will be delayed to late July. In Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, dry spring weather gave way to rain in June, leaving many fields waterlogged and making conditions ripe for late blight. North Dakota potatoes were rated poor to good. Nebraska's diminishing summer season is combined into the larger fall season for a single estimate this year. Percent comparisons, in the paragraph, above are based on a combination of the two crops

Western States potato plantings were estimated at 758,100 acres this year, up 3 percent from last year. The increase in western acreage is concentrated in the Pacific Northwest. Idaho's plantings area up 5 percent. Washington's acreage rose 3 percent and Oregon's acreage was up 2 percent. Montana increased their seed acreage by 9 percent and New Mexico was up 3 percent. In the other direction, Colorado plantings were off 2 percent and Utah dropped 25 percent from last year. California's fall potato acreage slipped by 6 percent, continuing a long-term decline. Warm spring weather allowed most of the western potato acreage to be planted ahead of schedule. Growth has been good and harvest should start ahead of normal. Some Colorado potato fields were hit by hail in late June. Oregon's crop looks good statewide.

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted and Acres Harvested, by States

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested	
	1999	2000	1999	Indicated 2000
<i>1,000 Acres</i>				
California	9.0	8.5	9.0	8.5
Colorado	77.2	75.8	76.9	75.6
IDAHO	395.0	415.0	393.0	413.0
SW (10 Counties)	26.0	28.0	26.0	28.0
Other Counties	369.0	387.0	367.0	385.0
Indiana	5.2	4.2	4.9	4.0
Maine	65.0	64.0	62.5	63.0
Massachusetts	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Michigan	48.0	49.0	47.5	47.5
Minnesota	70.0	66.0	53.0	60.0
Montana	11.0	12.0	10.9	11.8
Nebraska ^{1/}	21.6	25.0	21.2	24.5
Nevada	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
New Mexico	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.8
New York	26.0	22.0	25.5	21.0
North Dakota	121.0	124.0	110.0	115.0
Ohio	4.8	4.2	4.7	4.1
Oregon	56.0	57.0	55.5	56.5
Malheur Co.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Other Areas	45.5	46.5	45.0	46.0
Pennsylvania	14.5	13.5	14.0	13.0
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
South Dakota	3.5	4.5	3.4	4.2
Utah	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.5
Washington	170.0	175.0	170.0	175.0
Wisconsin	86.0	86.0	85.0	85.0
Wyoming ^{2/}	0.5		0.5	
Total Fall ^{3/}	1,203.0	1,223.9	1,166.1	1,199.9

1/ Summer estimates included with fall in 2000.

2/ Estimates discontinued in 2000.

3/ The first forecast of fall potato production will be released on November 9, 2000.

Fall Potatoes: Acres Planted for Certified Seed Potatoes, by States ^{1/}

State	1999 Crop			2000	State	1999 Crop			2000
	Entered for Certification	Certified	Percent Certified			Entered for Certification	Certified	Percent Certified	
	Acres		Percent	Acres		Acres		Percent	Acres
Alaska	200	135	68	100	New York	1,100	1,122	102	1,100
California	1,350	1,278	95	1,000	North	22,677	20,737	91	20,963
Colorado	14,833	14,094	95	16,831	Oregon	2,594	2,232	86	2,100
IDAHO	43,500	43,424	100	50,500	Pennsylvania	156	245	157	245
Maine	16,062	16,541	103	14,636	South	1,400	893	64	958
Michigan ^{2/}	2,600	2,486	96	2,600	Utah	60	60	100	62
Minnesota	13,400	10,323	77	11,000	Washington	2,250	2,309	103	2,300
Montana	10,200	10,042	98	11,777	Wisconsin	10,500	10,509	100	10,500
Nebraska	7,250	6,588	91	5,000	TOTAL	150,132	143,018	95	151,672

1/ Data supplied by State seed certification officials.

2/ 2000 data not available. Estimates carried forward from last year.